

Serial No.: 10/075,970

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please replace paragraph [0024] with the following:

[0024] The implantable or insertable medical device of the present invention is adapted to provide a controlled change in its biomechanical compatibility with the luminal walls. To achieve this objective, the medical device is constructed in a manner such that it substantially maintains, for a time period, its mechanical properties, particularly its rigidity relative to the luminal walls upon being initially inserted or implanted. Thereafter, the medical device becomes increasingly biomechanically compatible with the contacting tissue surfaces such as the luminal walls.